

Public Notice – Environmental Project

PURPOSE OF NOTICE:

The Department of Environmental Quality seeks public comment on the state's response to the environmental aspects of a proposed project in the cities of Portsmouth, Chesapeake, and Suffolk, Virginia.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

January 29, 2007 to February 27, 2007

TYPE OF RESPONSE:

Federal Consistency Certification

NAME OF AGENCY PROPOSING THE PROJECT:

U.S. Department of Transportation: Federal Highway Administration: Virginia Port Authority, applicant agency

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The Commonwealth of Virginia, through the Virginia Port Authority, proposes to relocate the existing Commonwealth Railway, Inc. rail line that runs through the cities of Portsmouth and Chesapeake to a new line that will run through the medians of the Western Freeway (Route 164) and Interstate Route 664. The proposed corridor is located in Suffolk as well as Portsmouth and Chesapeake. The corridor is approximately 5.5 miles long and 100 feet wide, extending from the APM Marine Terminal (Under construction in Portsmouth) past the Route 164/I-664 interchange in Suffolk, and ending at a point southwest of the Pughsville Road-I-664 intersection in Chesapeake. Approximately 4.3 miles of the existing railroad (from Coast Guard Boulevard in Portsmouth to I-664 in Chesapeake) would be abandoned. A new road overpass would be constructed on Route 17 where the at-grade rail corridor makes the transition from the median of Route 164 to that of I-664.

The project is to be funded by federal as well as state funds. Accordingly, the document is presented as an Environmental Assessment to meet National Environmental Policy Act requirements; and it includes Appendix D, a federal consistency certification, to meet Coastal Zone Management Act requirements. It is also intended to meet state Environmental Impact Report requirements.

HOW TO COMMENT:

DEQ accepts comments from the public by e-mail, fax, or postal mail. All comments must include the name, address, and telephone number of the person commenting and be received by DEQ within the comment period. The public may review the project documents at DEQ's central office in Richmond.

CONTACT FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS, DOCUMENT REQUESTS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

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